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STORIES OF THE STATES

MINNESOTA

By Hubert M. Skinner



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INSTRUCTOR LITERATURE SERIES

The Story of Minnesota

By Hubert M. Skinner



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The Story of Minnesota

Geography and Natural Features

The State of Minnesota is called, on its shield, "The Star of the North," though the words, as written, appear in French, thus: "*L'Etoile du Nord*." Since every State is represented by a separate star in our nation's flag, it is natural to speak of States, sometimes, as "stars;" and of all the States, Minnesota projects farthest to the north. In fact, it includes part of a peninsula away up in the Lake of the Woods, which singular fact calls for an explanation.

When our nation made peace with Great Britain at the close of the Revolutionary War, it was agreed that the Mississippi should be our western boundary all the way up to our northern boundary. But it was found, later, that the Mississippi did not extend so far north. Hence the western boundary was pieced out by an imaginary line running northward from the source of the river into the lake mentioned, cutting off for us an odd piece of land which we cannot reach except by boat, unless we pass through some of the Canadian land.

It was proper that the motto on Minnesota's shield should be written in French, for that was practically the only European language used in this region in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the words recall to mind the arduous labors and great services of brave French explorers, missionaries, and traders in the days of the long ago.

Minnesota is marvelously favored by nature, and its

scenes attracted the painter, the poet, and the scientist before they were brought to the attention of the home-seeker. The Falls of St. Anthony possessed a wild beauty in the days before an artificial slide was made for their waters, for power purposes. The cascade near Ft. Snelling needed no help of art to render it charming. Maiden Rock would be interesting, even if its pathetic story were wanting. So numerous are the clear blue lakes of Minnesota that a single cluster of them received from the early explorers the French name *Mille Lacs* (a thousand lakes). The State has set off for a state park a tract of thirty-five square miles, including Lake Itasca, and will doubtless make a similar use of some of the remarkably beautiful "Dalles" of the St. Croix, in the vicinity of St. Paul.

The prairie of red pipestone, which supplied the material for the calumets of untold generations of braves, is another notable feature of the state. The *Inyan Bos'ndata*, near the town of Castle Rock, has been suffered to fall in ruin; for its weird turret dropped to the plain, many years ago, through neglect, when it might have been preserved. Carver's Cave will never lose its interest. The exhilarating ozone breathed in Minnesota, the clear skies, the dryness of the atmosphere, and the varied scenery presented to the eye are all remembered by the visitor from other parts of the country, and are a source of pride to the citizens of the commonwealth.

Some Early Explorers

The written story of Minnesota begins with the formation of a company of Frenchmen to trade in furs in the region south and west of Lake Superior. This was in 1678. - The leading spirit in this enterprise was Daniel Graysolon Duluth, who for some time resided in a small palisade, or fort, of logs on the shore of Chequamegon

Bay. For many years there had been earnest French missionaries on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Superior, and French explorers and traders had sought to extend ever further westward and southward the power of New France, as Canada was then called. But the fierce Sioux Indians of Minnesota were not kindly disposed either to the French or to the native Indians to the eastward. One of the missionaries, Father Jacques Marquette, who came to the mission at Keweenaw Bay in 1669, was soon compelled to retire, with his Indian friends of that region, eastward along the Northern Peninsula of Michigan, to Mackinac.

Duluth, however, succeeded where others would have failed, and exerted a remarkable influence over the fierce and warlike Sioux. There was this bond of sympathy between them. Although a Frenchman, he was no friend or champion of the French officers who governed New France in the name of the great French king. He had no license from those officers to trade with the Indians, and trading without license was in violation of law. He had no relatives or powerful friends at court. He was liable to arrest and imprisonment at the hands of the French officers on the St. Lawrence.

Perhaps he argued to himself that he was beyond their lawful jurisdiction, for he had passed beyond the regions that had been officially explored by the agents of the king. He belonged to a class of men widely known at the time as forest rangers (*coureurs du bois*), who, outlaws as they were, occasionally rendered great service to their countrymen and to their sovereign, much as Robin Hood, in the stories told, came to the relief of his king. Duluth had for able attendants other forest rangers—forceful men like himself; and they seem to have recognized his leadership and to have worked with him without any friction.

In 1679 Duluth held a council with the Sioux. Probably he was the only white man that many of them had ever seen, and the first that ever came to Minnesota. His council was held at a point near the site of the city which now bears his name. The talk of a straightforward, bold man who trusted his life to the most warlike of savages, and bore no menace from king or governor, had much effect. The peace pipes from the Pipestone Quarry were smoked around the council fire. In the words of a quaint poem,—

They wer Synes of Peace,
And alle Stryffe wolde cease,
And the Redde Menne's Herts, unyted,
Fond voice in Songe
That was loud and longe
Whan ye Sachemes Pypes wer lyted.

In the fall and winter of the year he made a circuit of the lake region of Minnesota, and passed down the course of Pigeon River, which now forms the northern boundary of the State and Nation.

At this time there was a very general and wide-spread desire to find the source of the great river which De Soto had discovered and crossed, away back in 1541. DeSoto had not followed the river either up or down. It was easy to guess that it discharged into the Gulf of Mexico. It was equally easy to guess that it took its rise in one of the Great Lakes with which the French were acquainted in the time of Duluth. But neither the origin nor the mouth of the Mississippi was yet known, although a hundred and thirty-eight years had passed since the discovery by DeSoto.

Early in the spring of 1680, Duluth went with four Frenchmen and an Indian interpreter upon a voyage of exploration. The party passed up the dangerous Bois Brulè river until they were very near to the Upper Lake

St. Croix (holy cross), which the pious missionaries had so named. Carrying their canoes across the short portage that intervened, they embarked upon the lake in three light vessels of birch bark, and floated through it and down the St. Croix river. Arriving near the site of Hastings, on the Mississippi, where the rivers meet, Duluth probably at first supposed himself to be the first to discover that part of the great river; but if so, he was soon undeceived. Three white men had recently come up the river, and had been taken by the Indians on foot on a long journey to the north, from which they had returned, and they were now engaged with the red men in a grand buffalo hunt on the prairie below.

These facts Duluth and his companions learned from some strolling Sioux. The unknown visitants were perhaps in sore trouble. They were probably Frenchmen. One was a priest. The great forest ranger did not hesitate as to what he would do. He would aid his countrymen in their distress.

Down the river went Duluth and his men. Before they had gone far, they met the large party of hunters returning with their supply of buffalo meat and furs. In the company were the three white men, who proved to be Frenchmen. Their names were Hennepin, Accault (*ac-co'*), and DuGay. Hennepin was the priest and historian of his party, and we think of him as the real leader of it, though the command had been given to Accault.

The two parties of white men told one another the story of their experiences, and Duluth learned of the great enterprise of LaSalle. That irrepressible French leader had conducted a large party of explorers from Lake Huron into Lake Michigan and up the latter lake to the south end. Rounding the southern border, he had entered the St. Joseph river in what is now southern

Michigan, and passed up the stream to a portage between it and the Kankakee. He had descended that stream to the Illinois, and floated down the latter to Peoria Lake, where he passed the winter.



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Hennepin Discovering Falls of St. Anthony

From a painting by Douglas Volk, in the Governor's room in the State Capitol.

Disappointed at not receiving aid from the St. Lawrence region, he had now returned thither for reinforcements, having directed Accault, Hennepin, and Du Gay to make some explorations in his absence. They had descended the Illinois to the Mississippi, and had

come up the latter to the mouth of the Minnesota, where the Sioux compelled them to go on a painful foot journey far to the North. At the site of Anoka they had again embarked on the Mississippi, which they descended to the Falls. To these the priest had given the name of St. Anthony of Padua.

Unfortunately, the Frenchmen had quarreled among themselves, and they had been treated with severity by the Indians, who took away their property, and kept them under a sort of arrest, being never quite willing to see them depart. Duluth's party had been seen by two Indian women, who came from the northern region, and they had reported to the hunting party that five "spirits" were coming down the river from above. This report had awakened new hope in the breasts of the three captives, who from that time had been eagerly looking forward to meeting them.

The arrival of Duluth was most opportune. Never was his ability more strikingly shown. He was a cousin of

Tonty, the most trusted and competent of LaSalle's companions. Duluth called the Frenchmen his friends, and appealed to the unbroken friendship he had always manifested towards the Sioux. The situation changed immediately. The Hennepin party were treated with respect and kindness. There was feasting and smoking and story-telling.

After a short time passed amid the beautiful scenery of the place at which the parties met, the eight Frenchmen descended the river together, bidding farewell to their Indian friends. They dropped down the stream to the mouth of the Wisconsin, and passed up that river to a portage which led to the Fox river, and then they went down the latter, through Green Bay, to Lake Michigan. They never returned.

Hennepin's narrative, which is preserved, is of much interest, containing as it does the first chapters of the written history of Minnesota.

Five years later a new French commandant of the West, in the person of Nicolas Perrot (*pair'-ro*) descended the Wisconsin to the Mississippi and came up the latter to the site of Trempeleau, Wis., below that of Winona, and built a fort and trading post. The remains of this old structure were exhumed in 1888 by a party of students. It was on the Wisconsin side of the river, but its chief purpose was to promote trade with the Sioux. In 1686 the Commandant erected another post on the eastern side of Lake Pepin, for a like purpose. While there was much trading by the Sioux with these posts, it does not appear that there were any white residents among the Sioux or in any part of Minnesota; and thirteen years later, in 1699, owing to the implacable hostility of the Fox Indians of the Wisconsin country, the trading posts were abandoned by the French.

Except the names on the map, which were bestowed

by the French explorers of the long ago, there is little in Minnesota today to indicate that the French ever made claim to the country as a possession of France. There was not, as in Wisconsin and Michigan, any old French family life, to be handed down in tradition. There were no French families to leave a multitude of descendants as a nucleus for the white settlements of the Territory and State. The Sioux remained in undisturbed possession of the land, uninfluenced in manners and customs by intruders, for generations after the time of Hennepin and Duluth.

√ In 1726 about four thousand Fox Indians, the implacable foes of the French, came up the Mississippi river, having descended the Wisconsin. Their once-powerful tribe, as if the sport of fate, seemed ever to rush to destruction. Long periods of war against the white men, whom the other Indians seemed to love, had taught the Foxes no lesson. They came now, after their crushing defeats, to seek an active alliance with the powerful Sioux. But the Sioux, though warlike in disposition, had found no cause for war with the French. Their little intercourse with Europeans had been altogether favorable to them; and they turned a deaf ear to the appeals of the defeated red men.

√ The French had secured for a time the vast interior of the continent by discovering the Great Lakes and the Mississippi and by building a chain of forts and trading posts from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico. But in the end France was unable to hold these great possessions which had been acquired through heroism and toil and perseverance.

As a Spanish Possession

The French and Indian war, as it was called, began in 1754, and lasted until 1763. The Indians generally fought on the side of the French against the British

colonists, though the Iroquois of New York aided the latter. In 1759 the great fortress of Quebec fell into the hands of the British. Four years later, at the conclusion of the conflict, the French ceded to Great Britain all their continental possessions and claims east of the Mississippi, and to Spain the region to the west of the great river. The greater part of Minnesota thus nominally passed under the sovereignty of the Spanish king. There were within the bounds of Minnesota, however, no Spanish settlements. Spanish explorers and traders had not even visited the upper Mississippi.

Carver's Cave

Before narrating the first advent of an American in the Sioux country, it may be well to speak more particularly of a notable natural feature of the region, which has been briefly mentioned. This is the large cavern which opens into the river bank within the city limits of St. Paul, and which is widely known as Carver's Cave.

So large is this subterranean vault, that it served the purposes of a storehouse, a fortress, and a council chamber for the Sioux nation. It has been humorously called



Carver's Cave

"Minnesota's first State House." For centuries it had been a place of refuge from storms, from excessive cold, and perhaps also from pursuing enemies. On its interior walls were carved memorials of notable events in the unwritten history of the red men. Though long neglected by the State and city, and little known to the inhabitants of either, it possesses today an interest altogether unique because of its connection with literature and with the story of a notable explorer who made it known to the world.

Captain Jonathan Carver was a native of Connecticut who, as a young man, fought bravely in the French and Indian war in support of the claims of the British king. His family had been distinguished in the Colonial history of New England. While yet Connecticut was loyal to the British crown, and the Revolution was not foreseen, Carver mapped out a bold career of exploration. He would do as the French explorers had been doing for two centuries. He would go boldly into the unknown wildernesses of the West, learn the languages of the Indian tribes, record his observations, and make charts of the regions traversed. He would do more than any others had done. He would pierce the wilderness through to the Pacific, and stand upon the western shore of the continent.

This he accomplished in the years 1766-8. He came to the land of the Sioux, and was well received by them. The part of his narrative which most interests us is his visit to the vicinity of Carver's Cave. On the occasion of this visit there were in progress the dignified and solemn obsequies of a dead chieftain. No ordinary man was the fallen brave, it was seen. The dead man was attired in the picturesque clothing of his tribe, with the well-earned eagles' feathers in his hair, and richly beaded moccasins upon his feet. He was propped up in a sit-

ting posture upon a mat. A funeral oration was to be pronounced, and to this Carver listened with care, making note of all that was said. The entire speech was written in the Captain's notebook for future use. What is remarkable about the address is that it was given by a red man who had not learned oratory from the whites,—who perhaps had never seen a white man before, and whose manner was wholly native and untaught.

Carver's "Travels through the Interior Parts of North America" was published in London in 1778, in the midst of the Revolutionary war, when probably no one in England looked for the success of the Revolution in America. It seems strange to us now that Carver's book should have drawn any attention in Germany, or should have been read there at all; for Germany had no American colonies. But the book came to the notice of the great German poet Schiller, and he was especially interested in the funeral oration of the Indian brave. Schiller made it the subject of a short poem, which is called "The Death Song of the Nadowessie." The last syllable of this name is the word *Siou*x in a strange dress.

What Schiller wrote, all Germans read; and the funeral address became familiar in the homes of the German-speaking world. Another great German poet, Goethe, wrote to his friend Schiller to compliment him particularly on the little poem. Henry Raab, a noted educator, once said to the writer as follows:

"When I was a youth, an overgrown boy in a village school in Germany, we used to speak pieces on a certain afternoon of each week. This was a sore trial to me, for I had never spoken in public, and I did not know what to do with my hands, or how to make a single gesture. We had a copy of Schiller's poems, and from the book I chose this piece. The language was strong yet simple, and the gestures came to me naturally. The teacher

complimented me on my success, and I felt very proud of it."

In Great Britain the German poem came into notice, and no less a person than William Herschel, the astronomer who discovered the planet Neptune, translated the poem into English rhyme. Lord Lytton was another famous man who did the same thing. Even this was not the last poetical rendering of the speech; for George Bowring, a noted translator from the German, wrote a third English version of it. It is astonishing to find the speech of a savage of the Minnesota wilds in the Revolutionary age thus echoed and re-echoed in the speech of diverse lands and peoples. The funeral oration thus calls to our minds the dead chieftain himself, the Indian orator, the German poets, Schiller and Goethe, the great astronomer, the famous Lord Lytton, George Bowring, and Dr. Raab. But all the fame of the composition came too late for Captain Carver; he died in London two years after his book came from the press.

Becomes American Territory

In 1783 the Revolutionary war was ended, the independence of the United States was recognized by Great Britain, and the former British colonists became an independent people. The part of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi was recognized as belonging to the new republic.

In 1800 Spain ceded back to France the region lying west of the Mississippi, which was known as the Province of Louisiana; and three years later this vast Province, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the British possessions on the north, was purchased by the United States. Thus all of Minnesota was now under the American flag.

In 1819 the Federal Government began the construction of a large and substantial fort in the vicinity of the

Falls of St. Anthony, which Father Louis Hennepin had discovered and named nearly a hundred and forty years before; and for two years the work of building it was actively pressed. Here would be an impregnable stronghold for the protection of American interests in the far Northwest, and a refuge for future settlers, in time of need, from the perils of the frontier; also an inexhaustible storehouse of military and other supplies. This fortress, because of its site, is one of the most commanding fortifications of the country, and one of the most striking in appearance, as viewed from afar. The builder of it was Commandant Snelling, who had won fame in the army by a gallant charge against the Indians in the night battle of Tippecanoe in Indiana, in 1811. He called the new stronghold Fort St. Anthony; but in 1824 its name was changed to his own by an order of the War Department and it has since borne the name of Ft. Snelling.

In 1822, the year following its completion, a clearing was made about the Falls of St. Anthony and a mill was constructed; and thus were begun the now world-famous manufacture of Minnesota flour and the production of native lumber in that region. Not a year passed until the first steamboat arrived, having come up the river from St. Louis. Since nearly all the travel in that region was by water,—for there were no wagon roads as yet,—we need not be surprised at the enterprise shown by steamboat men in pushing their adventurous routes so far.

In 1827 a colony of Swiss immigrants came to the vicinity of the fort, and began a permanent settlement. Such a location for such a colony at such a time invites explanation. Lord Selkirk, of Great Britain, who did various eccentric things, had desired to plant a colony on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, and had secured in

some way the consent of a party of hardy Swiss to make the experiment of settling in a region so far to the north. They were not satisfied there, however, and determined after a time to remove to some place more sheltered from the northern winds, and more attractive to the view. In some way they became advised of the superior advantages of a location near Ft. Snelling, and here they found what they were seeking. Thus they came under the American flag to remain.

In 1829 the region was visited by a company led by Governor Lewis Cass, of Michigan, who was the Democratic candidate for the Presidency nearly two decades later. The historian of this expedition was Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, a famous explorer and writer, who for seven years had been a general agent of the government for Indian affairs. He traveled much with the governor through the unmapped Northwest, and both were of great service to whites and Indians in the management of our relations with the red men. In 1832 they paddled up the Mississippi to its source in a small lake.

Tradition says that it was the intention of General Cass to call the newly-discovered lake by a Latin name signifying *true head*, since it was the long-sought source of the great river; but that instead of writing the name *Verum Caput*, he accepted the rendering of a blundering secretary, who substituted the noun *veritas* for the adjective *verum*, and wrote it *Veritascaput*. Deeming this too long a name, the Governor clipped it at both ends, and called the interesting little body of water Lake Itasca, which name it retains to this day.

Wabashaw and the Black Hawk War

Through all the period of Minnesota's early settlement by Americans, the Sioux remained friendly to the Government and to the newcomers. Doubtless the great

stone fortress near the mouth of the Minnesota had its influence as an object lesson on the power of a great nation. But the Sioux were always disposed to be friendly to the whites, from the first advent of the French in the days of Duluth.

In 1832 the story of 1726 was repeated. This time it was the Sacs of Iowa and of Illinois, who had always been closely allied with the Sacs and Foxes of Wisconsin, that caused the trouble. Black Hawk led his ill-fated followers into a war upon the white settlers of Illinois, in 1832, having made his preparations on the Iowa side of the Mississippi, and having been lured by the treacherous promise of the Winnebagoes of Wisconsin that they would aid him. He seems to have had some hope, also, that the Pottawatomies of Illinois and the Sioux of Minnesota might be depended upon for help in an emergency.

In southeastern Minnesota, however, the great chief Wabashaw, whose name is gratefully remembered today, was proof against every appeal to sway him from his duty to the government, as one of its trusted representatives. Black Hawk was defeated and fled to Wisconsin, hoping, as a desperate chance, to be able to cross into Iowa, at the mouth of the Bad Axe. At this point he faced a furious fire from two sides; for a government steamer in the river and a force of regular soldiers on land made his band a target for unerring aim. Only fifty followers of Black Hawk remained alive when the firing ceased. About three hundred wretches had been able to cross the river in canoes. But they were met by Wabashaw, and half of them were killed by his Sioux followers, who had come prepared to take part in the fight. It was not until thirty years later that the Sioux were led into the folly of the Sacs and Foxes.

Some Interesting Incidents

In 1835 George W. Featherstonhaugh, a somewhat eminent English scientist, visited the Inyan Bos'ndata (near the site of the town of Castle Rock) which had attracted the attention of the Governor's party six years before, in view of the scientific interest which this



The Inyan Bos'ndata
The Turret fell Sept. 28, 1895

singular formation possesses as illustrating certain facts in geology. The visitor drew a picture of the rock, and this was afterwards reproduced in London in an engraving. According to the Huttonian theory in geology, all the region about the rock was once as high

as its highest point. There is much that is of geological interest in many parts of Minnesota.

In the same year there was transferred to Ft. Snelling, from the Federal garrison at Rock Island, in Illinois, a surgeon, Dr. Emerson, who brought with him a couple of house servants who had been his slaves in Missouri before his removal to Rock Island, two years before. These servants, a man and a woman, had been united in marriage with the consent of their master. There was nothing about them to attract any attention; but through circumstances their name was destined to become famous throughout the entire nation, being connected with one of the greatest of national issues—an issue which plunged the nation into a four-years war. After remaining for two years amid the panoramic scenes at Ft. Snelling, these servants were taken back to Missouri with their child, who had been born at the fort; but no one

who happened to notice them thought anything of this, and no notice was taken of their departure.

In the memorable year, 1838, the Indian title to the Minnesota lands east of the Mississippi was extinguished by a treaty effected by Government officers with the Indians, so that now there would be no difficulty in securing titles for lands; and though there was much prejudice against the climate of the upper Mississippi region, and there were then no free homesteads for settlers, immigration began to turn slowly in the direction of the newly acquired tract. It was not until thirteen years later that the Government secured the title to the Indian lands west of the river.

In 1841 a devoted priest, Father Galtier, (galt-yay') secured the aid of the few pioneers of the region to erect a small log chapel on the east side of the Mississippi, and dedicated it to St. Paul. This modest little church gave its name to the village which grew up about it, and which later developed into the great capital city of Minnesota.

Minnesota as a Territory

In 1849 the new Territory was organized, and received the name *Minnesota*, which means, in the Sioux language, "sky-tinted" water. Reference is made in the Sioux name, to the largest river that lies almost wholly in this State.

The principal settlement, which clustered about the chapel of St. Paul, and which was generally known by the singular name of Pig's Eye, was made the capital; and the seat of government has never been removed from this place.

The new Territory extended westward to the Missouri, thus including large portions of the present states of North Dakota and South Dakota.

The population of the Territory at its beginning was

only 4,057. So rapidly did it grow, that within a decade this was increased to 150,017, according to the Territorial census. Be it said to the credit of the Territorial government that within three years from its organization it established the University of Minnesota, which from small beginnings has grown to be one of the greatest institutions of its kind in America.

The Federal government was very generous in its gift of lands for the support of public schools in the future State. Never before had it donated to a State for this purpose more than one section of land in each township. To Minnesota it gave two sections of land in each township; and the proceeds of these have amounted in our time to a vast permanent school fund of eighteen millions of dollars.

The settlement at Stillwater was founded in 1843; and that of St. Peter was begun eleven years later. Before connecting roads were built, these early towns seemed very far apart.

Among the new settlements which sprang up in this period, perhaps none attracted more attention than New Ulm, which came into existence in 1854. It was a German settlement; but unlike the other German communities in their inception, it was not directed or aided by a priest or pastor, but was wholly secular. At that time America had been receiving for some years a large number of refugees from the great European uprising of 1848, when in many countries revolutionists fought fiercely against both state and church, making demand for the largest freedom in action and in thought. New Ulm in Europe is a suburb of the old Suabian city of Ulm, on the border of Wirtemberg and Bavaria. The settlers of New Ulm, like their ancestors in Europe, cherished the memory of the ancient German hero Hermann, who destroyed the great armies of the Roman emperor Augustus, and whom the Roman his-

torians called "Arminius." The name has been associated for ages with opposition to despotism, and has been used as a tocsin of revolution. Conspicuous in New Ulm is the statue of this hero. Many well-meaning people predicted the wrath of Heaven against the secular town of revolutionary sentiments, and saw in the disasters which later came to it the punishment of impiety.

Minnesota in Literature

In 1855 the literary world of America was startled by the appearance of a poem of marvelous originality, which leaped into instantaneous popularity. The writer was Henry W. Longfellow, then a professor in Harvard College (now University). The poem was based largely on Schoolcraft's account of travels among the Indians and was designed to be the "Indian Edda." The name of the poem was "Hiawatha." While its principal scene was the south shore of Lake Superior, in what are now Michigan and Wisconsin, it introduced the Minnehaha Falls of Minnesota, and also the Pipestone Quarry. Immediately there arose throughout the country a demand for pictures of the charming cascade near Ft. Snelling, and the name of Minnehaha, the heroine of the poem, was on every lip.



Hiawatha Statue

A year later Edward Eggleston, an Indiana minister of the Methodist denomination, was at St. Paul, and traveled a good deal about the territory, taking note of conditions as they then were. It was a period of feverish speculation in the region which Longfellow had innocently advertised for the promoters and speculators. Fraud and deception flourished on every hand. A picture of the time, which he vividly remembered, was given by Dr. Eggleston seventeen years later, after he had turned novelist, in his "Mystery of Metropolisville." In this story the names of places are thinly disguised. One can easily recognize Red Wing in "Red Owl;" Faribault in "Perri-tant;" the Cannon river in "Big Gun river;" Crystal Lake in "Diamond Lake;" Rice county in "Wheat County," etc. The madness of speculation which the author describes ended in the financial crash of the following year, when a dreadful "panic " came upon the country.

Politics and Slavery

Worse than the panic was the political excitement which swept over the land when, almost immediately after the inauguration President James Buchanan, the Supreme Court of the United States rendered the historic Dred Scott Decision. Dred Scott was the Negro servant of Dr. Emerson, who had left Fort Snelling with his family nineteen years before, and who for nine years had been suing for his freedom in State and Federal courts, claiming that his residence in the Free State of Illinois and the Free Territory of Minnesota had rendered him a free man. The highest court of the nation now solemnly declared that Negroes were property, and that slavery could not be legally forbidden in any Territory of the United States. This astonishing opinion was everywhere denounced in the North; for wherever slaves were alluded to in the constitution they were plainly

called "persons," and not "slaves" or "property"—though of course their *labor* was property, as all labor is. The decision of the court was that Scott had no standing in court, since he was not, and could not become a citizen. The determined opposition to this opinion, its disapproval in the platform of the Republican party in the next Presidential canvas and the success of that party resulted in the attempted secession of a number of States from the Union.

Statehood

In 1857 Minnesota prepared for Statehood, and a Constitutional Convention met in St. Paul. There had grown up in Congress a surprising indifference to the rights of the people, and plans had been made in some instances to prevent the people from voting on their State Constitutions. The Minnesota people claimed and secured the right to pass upon the instrument after it was completed. Freedom or slavery did not enter into the matters at issue, but there was much controversy as to railways and finances.

The Constitution was adopted, and the State was admitted in 1858. Almost at the same time a questionable indebtedness was incurred in aid of new railways; and within two years the new State repudiated the debt. There is no way in which an individual or a corporation can sue a State without its consent; and the advocates of repudiation enjoyed a long triumph. The disgrace of repudiation, however, was keenly felt, despite the fact that the debt was deemed an injustice; and twenty-one years later a compromise was effected, by which the State paid half the face of the debt, receiving the full amount of the bonds for cancellation. Thus the stigma was tardily removed.

Since Territories have their principal officers ap

pointed by the Federal Government, and are subject to it in many matters which States control for themselves, Territories have generally been in sympathy politically with the party in power in the nation. Minnesota had been claimed as Democratic, but the new Republican movement received a strong support in the new State.

When the war began, Minnesota men came forward eagerly to defend the flag. From this distant and undeveloped State the regiments were rushed to the Nation's capital with astonishing alacrity and promptness. By August, 1862, ten full regiments had been sent forward. In all the war, the new State contributed 25,052 men, or about one-seventh of its entire population; and this was at a time when every man seemed to be needed at home for pressing duties. It has been often stated that in the whole story of the war there was nothing more noble or wonderful than the charge of the First Minnesota Regiment at the battle of Gettysburg.

An Indian Outbreak

While the brave soldiers of Minnesota, far from home, were heroically fighting the battles of their country, a bloody tragedy of war in its most terrible form was enacted at home.

The Sioux, from their first mention in history, had been characterized by ferocity and cruelty. Their widely separated eyes gave to their faces a ferocious expression. By all other tribes to the eastward and southward they had been feared in the earliest days; and tales of their relentless hate and tiger-like deeds were common among the red men as among the whites through all the West. Yet at this time there seemed to be little apprehension concerning them. They were receiving pay for their lands. They should have known by now the utter futility of a contest with the Government of the United States.

Yet with secrecy and devilish cunning they planned, and endeavored to carry on, a war of extermination against the whites.

Little Crow was their leader. It has been frequently and confidently alleged that he was influenced to his course by emissaries from the Confederate Government of the South. Likewise it has been alleged that British jealousy of the Republic had encouraged a hostile spirit among the savages. But neither of these explanations seems necessary. The departure of many thousands of the men of the State to the South was witnessed by the Indians. To a much duller savage than Little Crow it would have been perfectly evident that the Government was fighting for its very existence, and that its warfare within was more dangerous than any invasion from without. Now, if ever, it seemed to him, must the red man find his opportunity to expel the white invader of his lands, and to strike such terror to the hearts of women and children throughout the country, by horrid deeds in Minnesota, that the attempt of white families to occupy this region would never be repeated.

Simultaneously, or in quick succession, the settlements in eighteen counties were attacked. New Ulm was the scene of a horrid butchery. The place contains today a memorial in honor of the brave men and women who met their fate trying to defend their homes and their children. Within a few days seven hundred murders had been committed in Minnesota, and three hundred homeless women and children were carried away for ransom or for slavery, or were left homeless upon the prairies. Of the scanty wealth of the new communities, three million dollars' worth had been destroyed. From all the country around Ft. Snelling refugees gathered in fear, abandoning their fields and their live stock. But there was little danger in the immediate vicinity of that strong fortress,

which was to be avoided for the time, at least, by the savage bands. Fort Ridgely, however, was fiercely assaulted, and was held only by the most determined resistance.

When the Indians found that they were to confront an advancing army, they came to their senses. The final conflict occurred at Wood Lake, on the twenty-second of September, when the Sioux were compelled to surrender to Col. Sibley.

The Indian war was over. Twenty-five thousand people returned to their homes, many of which were in ruins, and began the struggle of life anew, with the awful shadow of the tragedy upon them.

The government determined to mete out a stern retribution for the terrible crimes committed. No less than thirty-eight of the ringleaders must be ignominiously executed. The entire Sioux nation must be removed, root and branch, from the region which they had desecrated. The wholesale execution took place, some time after, at Mankato. It was realized at the time that the scene would be historic, and that its influence upon the minds of beholders would be deep and lasting. Hence it was carefully portrayed in a drawing which was printed in colors at the time and which was widely distributed as a souvenir. The final removal of the Sioux from the State took place in the following year.

Minnesota recovered rapidly from the terrible losses of the war time. Even at the close of the war for the Union, in 1865, the State census taken for that year revealed a population of a quarter of a million.

Among the visitors of the following year came Miss Abigail Dodge, whose books at that time were almost universally read in the East, and followed one another in quick succession. She wrote under the pen name of "Gail Hamilton." Her "Wool Gathering," which ap-

peared in 1867, contained almost enthusiastic descriptions of Minnesota scenes, and stimulated the desire of tens of thousands to see for themselves what she had seen.

Here is what she says of Minnehaha:

"Suddenly, almost without warning, almost like a discovery of your own, there it is—Minnehaha, the very fairy of waterfalls, a dainty, delicate little maid, dancing over the rocks with exquisite, winsome grace. '*Perfect*' is the word that rises to your lips. The gem has no flaw.

"It is surprising how little material Nature needs when she has a mind for feats. The waterfall is the fall of a brook. It is but a flickering, wavering gossamer veil, through which you can discern the brown rock behind. It is not water, but foam—an airy, tricky sprite of the skies, toying with the clods of the valley, mocking the cold cliff that vainly seeks to clasp her in its rough, dripping arms."



Falls of Minnehaha

This is "Gail Hamilton's" farewell: "But we must leave thee, Paradise. Goodby, Minnesota, fair land of lake and prairie, of pleasant wood and rolling water."

Lucy Larcom, the beloved "Mill Girl" of Lowell, whose exquisite verses charmed the nation, came also to worship at the new shrine. It is thus she describes the cascade:

"A step beyond the roadside's edge;

A rude bridge swung across a stream;

Sliding as softly from the ledge

As one might whisper in a dream,

The mist-like water falling there

Seemed, half-way down, dissolved in air."

At the little city of Northfield, which had been begun in 1856, Carleton College was established by the Congregationalists in 1870, and at once took high rank among the colleges of the country. Five years later, St. Olaf's College was established by the Lutherans in the same city, to the south of the Inyan Bos'ndata. In the centennial year, 1876, this beautiful seat of learning was the scene of one of the boldest bank robberies in all the records of crime. National interest was awakened by this act of the robbers from their association with a bandit who for decades defied the authorities and eluded capture while pursuing the career of a highwayman in public places, and residing, much of the time, in a populous city.

A ludicrous performance of a seeker for notoriety in the '70's, which is almost without a parallel in its results, may be mentioned here for the purpose of showing how little Minnesota was understood at the time in most portions of the country. The hero of it had attempted to attract general attention by riding on horseback from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. He then happened to pick up an old book in which it was stated that the true source of the Mississippi had never been discovered. He resolved to be the discoverer. He went to Lake Itasca, and found, a little way beyond it, a small, connected lake, which had always been called *La Bicke*, or Elk Lake. He could have obtained a plat of it at the county court house, if he had applied for one, since the whole region had been efficiently surveyed, and section lines had been run all about and through the little lake. Moreover, it had been described years before by correspondents of eastern papers and magazines. The new "discoverer," however, knew nothing of the facts which he might have ascertained at almost any farm house in the country. He sent out telegrams to the river cities all the way to New Orleans, announcing that the source of the great river

had been discovered, and the new lake named, and that he was about to descend the stream from its source to the Gulf of Mexico. Minnesotans read, with astonishment, in the press dispatches from day to day, accounts of his spectacular progress down the stream; how mayors of cities came out in decorated boats, with flags flying, to meet the explorer. The trip ended in a blaze of glory which, however, was short-lived.

In 1872 the St. Paul and Chicago railway, as it was then called, was completed from St. Paul to Winona. Three years later it was extended to LaCrescent, opposite LaCrosse, Wis.; and as the latter city was connected by rail with Chicago, a continuous line, with only the break of a river crossing, was completed between Chicago and St. Paul.

In humor as well as in pathos, Minnesota was in the lime light among the States. In the case of Duluth it offered to all the future a historic and proverbial example of misdirected sarcasm, which is firmly fixed in the folklore of America. When the Northern Pacific Railway was projected it was regarded by many as an almost insane undertaking.

In 1869 Duluth was selected for its terminus. In 1860 it had but seventy-one inhabitants, and this number had scarcely increased at all in nearly a decade. A bill before Congress, containing a grant of land to favor the future city, was seized upon by Proctor Knott, the humorous Congressman from Kentucky, as the subject for a speech which should live in the annals of the House as a masterpiece of sarcasm and of wit. The hopes entertained by Minnesotans for the future of Duluth supplied the occasion for loud laughter, in which the nation joined.

Amazement and chagrin soon came to the laughers, who found that they would far better have been investing their money in property in that "Zenith City of the

Unsalted Seas." For Duluth speedily became one of the greatest wheat markets of the world. It lies at the head of the greatest lake in existence, on which commerce is expanding from year to year. Within the last two decades the immense wealth of the Mesabi Range in iron ore has been developing at such a rate as to add greatly to the importance of the northeastern section of the State.

The growth of Minnesota within recent decades is one of the wonders of American development. The population in 1860 was 172,023. In 1900 it was 1,751,394. In 1910 it was 2,075,708. The increase in production, commerce, and accumulated wealth is no less remarkable. The large ingress of Scandinavian settlers has added immensely to the industry, thrift, and progress of the great commonwealth. A unique feature of this growth has been the expansion of the "twin cities," Minneapolis and St. Paul, which have grown towards each other until now their boundaries join. By 1900 there were five lines of railway on which twin city trains sped daily to and from Chicago, and three trans-continental lines connected this great center with the Pacific coast.

The influence of Minnesota in the councils of the nation has steadily grown.

The eminent statesman, William Windom, proved one of the great Secretaries of the Treasury. His career was suddenly—almost tragically—terminated by his death at a dinner party in the White House, in 1891. He had been looked upon as a probable future candidate for the Presidency.

There was a general feeling, amounting almost to conviction, that the renowned Governor John A. Johnson would be the standard-bearer of his party for the same great office; and his untimely death, a few years since, following his repeated triumphs in the State, was lamented throughout the Nation.

There are other names of very notable men of Minnesota of which you will read in larger histories.

While the Nation should hold the first place in the hearts of all its citizens, there is much reason for a strong feeling of State pride in Minnesota. Its achievements, which are among the marvels of American history, have not been accomplished without high-minded and noble effort, admirably directed and strenuously and unceasingly put forth. The modern State possesses a civic conscience and a civic pride, in which all its citizens should share; and Minnesota has been singularly blessed in the ability and character of its citizenship.

SONG OF MINNESOTA

Bright Northern Star! State that we love—
Fair Minnesota—all others above!
Clear lake and stream sky-tinted gleam
Bright on thy bosom in morning's first beam,
Here see the Father of Waters arise,
Cool in the breath of the clear Northern skies!
Industry's horn in our waterfalls sounding,
Labor's reward in our harvests abounding,
Hill, wood, and prairie enshrined by our homes,
School bells at carol from myriad domes!
Bright Northern Star, Home of the Free,
Fair Minnesota, our hearts are with thee,
All with thee.

Folk stories old, long ages told,
Fair Minnesota, thy memories hold;
Braves of the Sioux, maids that were true,
Live in thy legends and songs ever new.
Here Hiawatha on Love's errand came.
Here Minnehaha still voices her name.
Here the Great Spirit in power descended.
Here the long strife of the ages was ended.
Blest is the land that the poet inspires!
Cold is the heart but that loves and admires!

Sweet land of song, bright memories throng,
Fair Minnesota, thy life stream along—
All along.

Oak leaf and pine wreathes intertwine!
Fair Minnesota, the garland is thine!
Blend with the leaves, stalks from the sheaves—
Proud is the chaplet that Industry weaves!
Sons of the Northland have ever been free.
Brave were our sires on the land, on the sea.
Search the proud record of History's pages;
Northmen have stood for their rights in all ages!
Saxon and Dane in the New World unite,
Firm in their purpose and strong in their might.
Bright Northern Star, Home of the Free—
Fair Minnesota, our hearts are with thee,
All with thee.

May be sung to the tune of "The Wedding March" from "Lohengrin."



Falls of St. Anthony in 1861

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